



STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Oil, Gas & Mining

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FILE

Scott M. Matheson, Governor
Temple A. Reynolds, Executive Director
Dr. G. A. (Jim) Shirazi, Division Director

February 24, 1984

Mr. Neal H. Domgaard
Uintah County Commissioner
Uintah County Building
Vernal, Utah 84078

RE: Uintah County Tar Sands Mine
PRO/047/022
Uintah County, Utah

Dear Mr. Domgaard:

The Division has reviewed your MR-1 submission which was received January 26, 1984, regarding Uintah County's proposal to mine tar sands in the SE1/4, Section 32, Township 14 South, Range 23 East.

The Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP) has been found to be quite deficient in many respects and, prior to detailing all deficiencies, it would behoove both the County and the Division to meet and discuss what is needed to satisfy the requirements of the Mined Land Reclamation Act. For example, a sizeable amount of this necessary information has already been acquired by Geokinetics and, if obtainable, may be applicable to the County's proposed mining operation in light of the close proximity of the operation, providing that the sites are proven to be similar with respect to elevation, soils, vegetation, etc. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management Hydrocarbon Leasing Environmental Impact Statement as well as the Uinta Basin Synfuels Development Environmental Impact Statement may be good reference sources for the County in submission of required baseline data.


Regardless, it is understood that a meeting will ensue between the Division and Mr. Bob Nicholson, City-County Planner, on February 28, 1984 at 10:00 a.m., in Salt Lake City regarding acquisition and submission of required information as referenced above. The State Division of Environmental Health, Bureau of Water Pollution Control, will also be represented at this meeting to insure that agency's involvement during the initial review stage of the proposed operation.

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With reference to the requested exemption from the bonding requirement, the Division is aware that the Division of State Lands and Forestry has determined that no bond will be required according to that agency's determination. However, the County should be apprised that, according to Division of Oil, Gas and Mining regulations, a reclamation surety bond is required and that it (or its possible waiving) must be presented before and approved by the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining.

The Division looks forward to our meeting on February 28th. Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the Division.

Sincerely,


Mary M. Boucek
Reclamation Biologist/
Permit Supervisor

MMB/btb

cc: Brian Nelson, Bureau of Water Pollution Control
J. Smith, DOGM
E. Hooper, DOGM
P. Grubaugh-Littig, DOGM